Swaziland
mVAM Methodology

Household survey:
WFP Swaziland started conducting household food security monitoring in February 2017 through mobile data collection (mVAM) using monthly live telephone interviews with approximately 1,750 respondents. Participants were randomly selected from a national database of mobile subscribers. An airtime credit incentive of US$0.50 (SZL7.00) is provided to respondents who successfully complete the survey. The questionnaire collects data on demographics, household food consumption, and food-related and livelihoods coping strategies. A final open-ended question gave respondents the chance to share additional information on the food situation in their communities.

Traders survey:
Since January 2017, monthly telephone interviews are also being conducted with traders to collect information on the prices of food including maize meal, rice, wheat flour, bread, beans, cooking oil, sugar and salt, along with information on general food availability and market accessibility. The survey questionnaire also collects some demographic information on the traders and their level of operation (either retailer or wholesaler). The survey covers all four regions of the country (Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini, and Shiselweni), targeting 21 markets identified from a market assessment that was conducted in 2016 covering rural and urban areas. On average, three traders per market are interviewed.

Phone surveys contain inherent response biases; therefore, the bulletin reports patterns and trends rather than precise estimates. Prior consent was requested from the respondents before the start of all interviews. For security and safety measures, all respondents were identified with an anonymous ID. The interviews were carried out either in Siswati or English.

Food Consumption Score (FCS):
The food consumption score (FCS) is a proxy indicator for food security that measures the diversity of household diets and how frequently food is consumed. The FCS is calculated using the frequency of consumption of eight food groups by a household during the 7 days before the survey, using standardized weights for each of the food groups reflecting its respective nutrient density. Households are then classified as having 'poor,' 'borderline,' or 'acceptable' food consumption based on standard thresholds of FCS. For more details on the food group composition, weighted values, and FCS thresholds, please see the Food Consumption Analysis Technical Guidance Sheet.

Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI):
The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the frequency and severity of the behaviours households engage in when faced with shortages of food or financial resources to buy food. It assesses whether there has been a change in the consumption patterns of a given household. The rCSI is calculated using standard food consumption-based strategies and severity weighting. A higher score indicates that households are employing more frequent and/or more extreme negative coping strategies. For the purpose of this bulletin, mVAM calculates the mean rCSI of households. For more details on the types of coping strategies considered and their respective severity weighting, please see the Coping Strategies Index Field Methods Manual.

Household Wall Type:
The material used for the walls of a household’s dwelling is used as a proxy indicator to determine said household’s socio-economic status. Households with cement walls are regarded as better-off, while those with grass or wood are considered to be the worse-off. In general, the better-off households engaged much less in livelihood coping strategies than those worse off.

Contacts:
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## mVAM Questionnaire

### Household Questionnaire

#### Demographics
1) Is the head of your household a man or a woman?
2) In what year were you born?
3) Where in Swaziland are you currently living?
   - Region
   - Inkhundla
4) Do you live in a town or a village?

### Food security indicators

#### Consumption-based coping strategies
6) How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat foods you enjoy less, because it is cheaper?
7) How many days in the past 7 days did your household get food or money to buy food from family or friends?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Consumption Score</th>
<th>Frequency (number of days from 0 to 7)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5) Consider only meals consumed at home or at a public kitchen but not in private restaurants or street food. DO NOT count food consumed in very small amount: i.e. less than a tablespoon per person or consumed by only one member of household. How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat the following food groups?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Cereals, grains, roots and tubers including rice, pasta, bread, sorghum, pap, samp, potato, white sweet potato, tinkhobe, sinkwa</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Pulses, nuts and/or seeds including beans, cow peas, pigeon peas, peanuts, lentils, soy and/or other nuts</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Vegetables including spinach, onion, tomatoes, carrots, peppers, green beans, lettuce, pumpkin, pumpkin leaves, beet root leaves, ligusha, imbuya, chuchuza, orange sweet potatoes, broccoli, butter nut, or other</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Fruits including banana, apple, lemon, mango, papay, guavas, oranges, blackberries, granadillas, apricot, peach/ or other</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Meat, eggs and fish including goat, beef, chicken, pork, blood, grasshoppers, worms, fish, including canned tuna, and / or other seafood, eggs (meat and fish consumed in large quantities and not as a condiment)</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Milk and other dairy products: fresh milk/ sour, yogurt, cheese, milky tea, other dairy products. (Exclude margarine / butter</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Oil and fats including (vegetable oil, palm oil, shea butter, margarine, other fats / oil</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Sugar and sweets including (Sugar, manafu, sugarcane, honey, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, sugary drinks, other)</td>
<td>1 ___ 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8) How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat fewer meals in a day?
9) How many days in the past 7 days did your household eat smaller meals?
10) How many days in the past 7 days did adults in your household eat less so children can also eat?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livelihood-based Coping Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11) During the past <strong>30 days</strong>, did anyone in your household have to engage in any following behaviors <strong>due to a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food</strong>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 = Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 = No because I already did this and cannot do so anymore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 = No because I did not face a shortage of food and did not need to do so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 = Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Sold household assets/goods (jewellery, refrigerator, television)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Spent savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Purchased food on credit or borrowed money to buy food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Sold productive assets or means of transport (tools, bicycle, car, female animals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Reduced health (including medicine) and education expenditures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12) In the past 30 days, what was the main source of food?
   - a. Own production
   - b. Purchases
   - c. Gifts
   - d. Food assistance
   - e. Other

**Other**

13) Did your household receive any assistance in the past 30 days? [Reply yes or No]
   13.1 If yes, what kind of assistance? [1=food, 2=cash, 3=both]
   13.2 Which organisation did you receive assistance from? [1=World Food Programme, 2=Swazi government, 3=World Vision, 4=Red Cross, Other (specify)]

14) What is the typical day’s wages for unskilled, casual, manual labour in your area?

15) What kind of wall does your house have?
   - a. Cement bricks/ blocks
   - b. Mud blocks
   - c. Stones/ corrugated iron
   - d. Mud and poles/ grass/ wood

16) How many active/functional mobile phones (working SIMs) does your household use?

17) What is the main problem your household or community faces with accessing food?

**Trader Questionnaire**

**Geographic and demographic info**

1) Are you the employee or owner of the shop?
2) How many years has your business been in operation?
3) Which region of Swaziland are you currently operating in?
4) What is the name of the market that your shop is located in?
5) Which type of trading activity you are mainly involved? [Wholesale, Retail in shop, Retail in supermarket]
Food prices

6) **MAIZE MEAL**: What is the maize meal brand that you usually sell the most?

7) Currently, how much does 1kg of the brand of maize meal cost in your shop? *(If the 1kg unit is not available insert the price and the unit of the available measurement in kg. If maize meal is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”.)

7.1 Where is your main source of supply for maize meal?
   a. From your current region
   b. Another region in Swaziland. Which one?
   c. South Africa
   d. Elsewhere: specify

7.2 How often do you place your purchasing orders for maize meal?

7.3 How much maize meal (in kg) you usually buy in that time frame? *(If the trader reports in bags, note down number of bags and the weight of each bag)*

7.4 How long does it take to have your stock order delivered? (state number of days)

8) **WHEAT FLOUR**: Currently, how much does 1 kg of wheat flour cost in your shop? *(If wheat flour is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)*

9) **RICE**: Currently, how much does 1kg of rice cost in your shop? *(If rice is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)*

10) **BEANS**: Currently, how much does 1kg of sugar beans cost in your shop? *(If beans are not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)*

11) **COOKING OIL**: Currently, how much does 750 ml sunflower cooking oil cost in your shop? *(If a bottle of cooking oil is of a different volume, then ask for the price of a bottle and ask for the volume. If cooking oil is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)* *(To be asked only once a month)*

12) **BREAD**: Currently, how much does a loaf of brown bread cost in your shop? *(If bread is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)* *(To be asked only once a month)*

13) **SUGAR**: Currently, how much does 500g of sugar cost in your shop? *(If sugar is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)* *(To be asked only once a month)*

14) **SALT**: Currently, how much does 500g of salt cost in your shop? *(If salt is not sold, include “commodity not sold”, if not in stock, include “not in stock”)* *(To be asked only once a month)*

Others

15) How many traders are there in your community? *(To be asked once in 3 months)*
   • Of which, how many of them are maize/maize meal traders?

16) How long does it take the furthest person living away from your shop, to walk to your shop? *(To be asked once in 3 months)*

17) Are there any challenges in accessing the market/area?
   a. Yes: If yes what is it? Single or multiple?
      i. Difficult road conditions
      ii. Damaged bridge
      iii. No vehicles to ferry goods
      iv. Others: specify
   b. No:

17.1.1 What are the major constraints limiting your business?
   i. Poor road infrastructure
   ii. lack of electricity
   iii. lack of financial institutions (for credit provision)
   iv. increasing prices
   v. lack of transport
   vi. other, specify

18) Are there any shortages of basic food commodities in your shop [such as Maize meal, beans, rice, bread, cooking oil, wheat flour, etc.]?
   a. Yes: if yes, what food?
   b. No

18.1 If yes: what is the main reason for shortage of food commodities in the market?
   i. High prices
   ii. unavailability of food commodities
   iii. lack of transport
   iv. poor weather
   v. delay to ferry goods by supplier
   vi. other, specify

19) Would you tell us about the food situation in your community?